

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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R 091310Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2134

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID XF LY SU

SUBJECT: SUDANESE-LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 864

1. REFTEL'S ASSUMPTION THAT ALIER VISIT HERE GOT MORE ATTENTION IN KHARTOUM THAN IN TRIPOLI IS CORRECT. A SUMMARY OF ALIER'S INTERVIEW WITH LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, WITH ITS GENEROUS PRAISE FOR LIBYAN ROLE JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE, DID GET FRONT PAGE TREATMENT, BUT THE KICKER ABOUT SUDAN EXPECTING HELP FROM "SISTER AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" WAS LEFT OUT, TOGETHER WITH ALL REFERENCE TO ERITREAN QUESTION. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION HERE OF AGREEMENTS ANNOUNCED IN KHARTOUM ON DELEGATION'S RETURN (REFTEL, PARA 3). PRESS ALSO FEATURED SSU DEPUTY ABULGASIM'S SPEECH AT TOBRUK CEREMONIES IN WHICH HE SAID NOTABLY: "EVER SINCE SIGNING OF THE TRIPOLI PACT BETWEEN SUDAN, SYRIA, EGYPT AND LIBYA, SUDAN'S PATH HAS BEEN CLEAR ON THE
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ROAD TO ARAB UNITY. WE HAVE HAD THE SAME ENTHUSIASM

AS THE FIRST OF SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION (LIBYA) FOR THE CAUSE OF UNITY, AND WE HAVE FELT THAT OUR STRUGGLE MUST CONTINUE MORE STRONGLY TO OVERCOME THE DREGS AND PLOTS OF ARAB REACTION." TO LIBYAN EARS THESE DAYS "ARAB REACTION" MEANS EGYPT.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SUDAN, AND FOREIGN AID IN GENERAL, IS UNPOPULAR HERE. LIBYAN PUBLIC OPINION IS UNANIMOUS THAT CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME, AND ELEMENTS OF RACISM MAKE THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE WHEN IT IS A QUESTION OF HELPING AN AFRICAN STATE. WHILE QADHAFI IS QUITE CAPABLE OF OVERRIDING THESE SENTIMENTS IF HE HAS A MIND TO, HE WOULD NEED GOOD REASONS FOR DOING SO. THESE COULD ONLY BE SUDANESE COMMITMENTS TO UNITY, SOME CONTRIBUTION TO QADHAFI'S ANTI-SADAT CAMPAIGN, OR CONCESSIONS TO REJECTIONIST LINE ON MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS HARD TO GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING FROM THE LIBYANS.

3. LEST NIMEIRI BE TEMPTED INTO SUCH FOLLIES BY WHAT MAY BE ILLUSIONS ABOUT POTENTIAL LIBYAN GENEROSITY, EMBASSY KHARTOUM MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO DROP A WORD IN THE RIGHT EAR ABOUT THE CURRENT LIBYAN FINANCIAL SITUATION. WITH RECENT DROPS IN OIL PRODUCTION, LIBYANS ARE PRETTY HARD PRESSED FINANCIALLY THEMSELVES, AND ARE HAVING TO DIP INTO RESERVES TO MEET EXISTING COMMITMENTS. ALSO, WE ASSUME LAST SUMMER'S AFFAIR, WHEN QADHAFI ASKED FOR HIS MONEY BACK AFTER NIMEIRI ACCUSED HIM OF PLOTTING, IS NOT COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN BY GOS.
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